

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction



Remember Our Troops

# P.R.I.D.E.

Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

## AT WORK



## Parole Swearing In Ceremony

State Representative Michael Lawlor- (D) of East Haven and William Dyson- (D) of New Haven, the two architects behind Public Act 04-234, which consolidated the Board of Pardons and Paroles with the Department of Correction, and two very strong advocates for legislation that would build a bridge between incarceration and the community, were on hand as 94 Parole Officers and 13 Parole Supervisors of the Board of Pardons and Paroles were sworn in.



Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Chairman Gregory Everett and Director Robert Gillis welcomed Chief State's Attorney Christopher Morano, State Representatives Michael Lawlor and William Dyson, staff, family members, and friends at the official Swearing-In Ceremony for staff of the Board of Pardons and Paroles on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.

Continued on Page 3, *Parole*

## From the Commissioner

The continuing challenge of combating inmate suicide is obviously a subject of great concern within our agency at the moment. As it does in free society, this tragedy occurs all too often inside of correctional institutions, devastating those left behind, which in our case includes dedicated staff who do all they can to protect these individuals from themselves. Especially with the intake facilities that are part of Connecticut's correctional system, that potential for self-harm is heightened by a variety of issues such as the shock of incarceration, substance abuse addiction and detoxification and mental health afflictions. Over the past year and a half, our agency has undertaken a major review and revision of our suicide prevention policies.



Continued on Page 2, *Commissioner*

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## Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration

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About and for  
correctional  
professionals

October 9 - 22,  
2005

# CERT Class

The Department graduated 22 new members of the elite Correctional Emergency Response Team last week at MCTSD. Guest speaker Warden William S. Willingham of the Danbury Federal Correctional Institution told the gathered that each of them would “feel fear” and that was normal. He said that their training and character would allow them to “manage that fear” so that they might perform their vital and varied roles.



The recruits come from the ranks of officers, maintenance and school teachers, but all are dedicated to a single, specialized mission. Of the 21 men and one woman who graduated, Correction Officer Craig S. Burnett, Sr. was selected as Outstanding Graduate for Class 05-02.

## Commissioner, Cont'd

National experts have been called in and a number of reforms have been initiated such as the orientation units which now provide increased staff oversight in the first few critical days of incarceration. Two key points have become clear at this point in this continuing process. First and foremost is the incredible job that staff is doing each and every day, repeatedly saving the lives of inmates who are in the process of trying to harm themselves. The notifications of these lives saved are for me, the source of incredible pride. Last year there were 146 suicide attempts throughout the agency, which tells me that your commitment and the agency's enhancement in suicide prevention initiatives are working. What is also important to remember is that we had more than 32,000 admissions to our facilities last year. Nearly all were successfully screened, accessed and processed through the system. While even one such death is reason for concern, it must not be forgotten that many offenders are alive, to reconsider their lives in the light of another day, because of the tremendous job our staff does on a daily basis. What has also become prominent as we study this issue, is the single-minded intent that some of these offenders have displayed in harming themselves. In some cases, despite staff intervention, despite a mental health evaluation and despite a cellmate inches away, suicides have occurred. Together, we will continue to confront this problem, looking for even more means of interrupting this terribly sad end to life. We have recently conducted a Suicide Prevention Summit with our top managers and a national expert which provided a very frank and beneficial discussion of where we stand on this matter. As always, you are the foundation of assuring safe, secure and orderly facilities. Please continue your vigilance, your compassion and your good work toward impacting this issue.

# Pride. Work

for  
October 9 - 22, 2005

Distributed  
bi-weekly to 7,000 staff  
and via the internet  
throughout  
Connecticut and the  
nation by the Department  
of Correction  
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M. Jodi Rell, Governor

Theresa C. Lantz,  
Commissioner

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# Mayor's Message

It's 22.6 miles from the front door of City Hall in Hartford to the confines of



CRCI in Enfield, only about a thirty-minute drive... if I-91 is kind. The Honorable Mayor of Hartford, Eddie Perez, made the short trip last week to address some inmates in a belated talk originally scheduled as part of Latin History month.

Perez extended his hand to those who wanted to return to

Hartford after their release, but conditionally. "I want you to contribute" said the Mayor, "not take". He pointed to the "New Day" program at the facility and in the city, which prepares those about to be and recently released with valuable contacts and resources. Perez answered some questions and pointed to obstacles in his own life as an example that hurdles may be overcome. He encouraged patience in setting goals for newly released inmates. "We will work with you" he said, but said that anything short of a 5 or 10 year plan is not being realistic. The distance from Enfield to Hartford is a short trip for some and a long journey for others.

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## Condolences



Director Richard Miele and staff of the Correctional Transportation Unit offer their condolences to Correction Officer Joseph McAvoy on the passing of his wife Catherine on October 17, 2005, after a short illness.



Warden Moises Gonzalez and staff of MYI are saddened to announce the passing of Camille Schimelfanick, mother-in-law of Captain Michael Capasso.



Warden John Tarascio and staff of Gates CI are saddened to announce the passing of Daniel Kulp, son of Correction Officer Henry Kulp and brother of CFSS Garrett Kulp.



Warden David Strange and the staff of Osborn CI are saddened to announce the passing of Marilyn C. Sugros, mother-in-law of Counselor Dennis Morgan.

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## Parole, Cont'd

Commissioner Lantz expressed the following sentiments "I am a firm believer that from the first day of incarceration, we should be preparing offenders for a successful reintegration back into their communities. If there is a bridge from incarceration to law-abiding citizenship, a bridge under the scrutiny of a trained and committed parole officer, the results are many times more successful. That's what makes today so important. Your talents and expertise are fundamentally changing the landscape of the criminal justice system here in our state."

Chairman Everett extended an especially warm welcome and his heartfelt gratitude to the family and friends assembled for the important occasion. "Today has been a long time coming and I am extremely optimistic about the future of our unit. That's what makes today so important. I would ask today, as you stand with your right hand raised, repeating the oath, that you give great consideration to the words you are speaking and what they stand for. You should feel honored and privileged to be here today because of the incredible opportunity you have been given to serve our state. The citizens of Connecticut have placed their trust and their faith in you and your daily actions. I am confident of your abilities, and I am confident that the public of our state will be protected."

Continued on Page 6, *Parole*



Employee  
Assistance  
Program

A Confidential Counseling Service

888-EAP-8900

## SHAC

The Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee has its second edition of their newsletter in the printing process. Keep an eye out, as it will be distributed at each facility in the near future.

# 2005 MAC Award

On Friday October 7th, The Management Advisory Council (MAC) sponsored "State Manager's Day" at the AquaTurf in Southington to recognize the contribution of exemplary state managers and to provide an opportunity to capture information relevant to management of state government. During this ceremony, the MAC presents The Distinguished Managerial Service Award. The Department of Correction's 2005 Manager of the Year, Correctional Counselor/Supervisor Joseph Roach of Bergin CI was an award recipient.



Director of Security Dennis Jones and Counselor Supervisor Joseph Roach at the 2005 MAC Awards Ceremony.

Continued on Page 5, 2005 MAC Award

## Did you know?

Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This week's issue was submitted by Rick Hamel who can be reached at 860.692.7566. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554.



As the holiday season approaches, the first holiday that comes to mind for me is Thanksgiving and of course, when you think of Thanksgiving, you think turkey! However, preparing the turkey for that holiday meal is no longer as simple as going from oven to table. Today, there are so many other ways to prepare that main course...you may oven roast your turkey, smoke your turkey, or becoming increasingly popular today, deep fry your turkey. However, DID YOU KNOW that deep frying your turkey could land you and your family in hot water? There is an increasing concern that some may be sacrificing personal safety for good taste.

### Here's why using a deep-fryer can be dangerous:

- Many units easily tip over, spilling the hot oil within the cooking pot.
- If the cooking pot is overfilled with oil, the oil may spill out of the unit when the turkey is placed into the cooking pot. Oil may hit the burner/flames causing a fire to engulf the entire unit.

Continued on Page 5, *Did you know?*

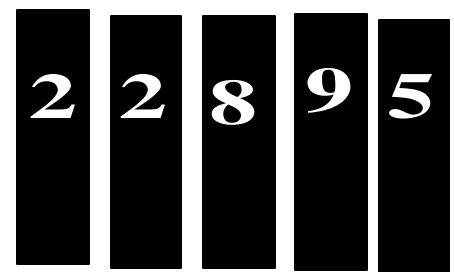
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## MVP's,

Allen, Jeffrey Lt	CRCI
Allen, Kenneth CO	CCI
Andras, Kenneth CO	CRCI
Anderson, George CC	McWCI
Arcouette, John Lt	CRCI
Arline, Tyrvonder CO	CCI
Artz, Kevin CO	McWCI
Bancroft, Connie Adm Asst	HCC
Barone, Sandra CS	McWCI
Beaulieu, Leo CO	CRCI
Beradino, Todd CO	CRCI
Boland, Rachel CC	McWCI
Bosco, Michael SST	CCI
Bowling, Michael CO	CCI
Cauley, Michael CFSS II	McWCI
Cleaver, Michael Capt	McWCI
Correia, Nelson Lt	CRCI
Cruz, Mejias CO	CRCI
Cyr, Renee CC	CRCI
Daniels, Christopher CO	McWCI
DeJesus, Raul CO	McWCI
Fontano, Lisa Marie CO	CCI
Grant, David CO	CCI
Green, Dorthula School Principal	CCI
Haesche, Jacquelyn SST	CCI
Hill, David GMO	CRCI

Continued on Page 6, MVP's

## Supervised Population on October 19, 2005



On October 19, 2004 the population was 22,956.

# Employee's of the Quarter



**Hartford CC** - It is with great pleasure that Warden Charles Lee announces the individual at the Hartford Correctional Center who has been honored for their extraordinary performance during the last quarter. The Employee of the Quarter is Correctional Officer Leslie Valentine. In the nomination from her peers, Officer Valentine was noted to have performed exceptionally well in this quarter by stepping forward to handle extra tasks and to assist others when needed at HCC. Officer Valentine has been with the agency since August 2001 and is a

diligent, dedicated officer and an asset to her shift.

**South District** - General Maintenance Officer David Szpyrka was honored as Employee of the Quarter for the South District Facilities Management and Engineering Unit. Glenn Noffsinger, PFE I, Chairman of the Committee, made the presentation citing that Mr. Szpyrka is a team player that always displays sound judgement and an employee who promotes a positive attitude. He is truly an asset to the Maintenance Team.

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## Did you know?, Cont'd

- Partially frozen turkeys placed into the fryer can cause a spillover effect. This too, may result in an extensive fire.
- The sides of the cooking pot, lid and pot handles get dangerously hot, posing severe burn hazards.

**If you absolutely must use a turkey fryer, here are some tips for safer use:**

- Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors a safe distance from buildings and any other material that can burn and never use deep-fryers on wooden decks or in garages.
- Make sure the fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping and never leave the fryer unattended. Watch for children and pets.
- Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you don't watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.
- To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed. Oil and water don't mix.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- Even after use, never allow children or pets near the turkey fryer. The oil inside the cooking pots remains dangerously hot hours after use.



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## Around the cell block

**Florida**- A former minor league baseball player was given a no show job in a prison library so he could help the corrections team win a state softball tournament.

**Peru**- A drug trafficker was crowned the winner of the annual Miss Spring Beauty Pageant at the Santa Monica women's prison.

**Florida**- A judge has overruled a state correction's policy that allowed a sex offender to be rearrested upon released because he had no place to live.

**South Carolina**- An inmate with asthma has been awarded \$3,200 after he sued the correction department for exposing him to second hand smoke in prison.

## 2005 MAC Award Cont'd

The Department of Correction's "Manager of the Year" award recognizes the manager within the agency who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, exceptional service and managerial performance, commitment to the positive development of self, of staff and others, a positive and dependable role model. Director Dennis Jones, who presented CS Roach with the award on behalf of Director Mary Johnson had this to say "after a thirteen year career of constant striving for excellence, Counselor Supervisor Roach has arrived, and stands as a role model for us all. Joseph Roach is an exceptional manager, an exceptional individual, and an exceptional citizen of our fine state." Congratulations on a Job Well Done!



# Domestic Violence Program Annual Conference

Domestic Violence Programming is offered at ten of the Connecticut DOC facilities. Director Pat Hynes and the Offender Programs Unit works closely with staff to encourage those who facilitate this program.

Counselors Linda Trahan & Jamie Richardson are two of the program coordinators for the Agency's domestic violence program. At an annual meeting held on September 30th at MCTSD, David Mandel and Matt Crocket, who are both outside contractors for the DV program, were invited to speak on cultural competence and strangulation. Certificates of Appreciation were given to all the DV instructors and a plaque was presented to Dave for his continued support of our programming efforts.



(L-R) Jamie Richardson, Director Mary Johnson, Dave Mandel of the Non Violence Alliance (NOVA), Director Patrick Hynes and Linda Trahan.

## Parole, Cont'd

Representative Lawlor stated as he addressed the audience, "I, along with my colleague here, strongly believe that state agencies must work in conjunction with one another in an effort to improve an offender's chance at successful reintegration." Representative Dyson emphasized the important role that parole officers play in the community. "We must pay attention and take action to try and stop that door from revolving. It is up to all of us to play a part to help reduce recidivism."

Chief State's Attorney Chris Morano was the keynote speaker for the ceremony and he spoke to the group about making a difference and he stressed, "Your role in the community is important and it is significant to enhancing law enforcement." Mr. Morano also administered the official oath to the parole officers and parole supervisors.

The Department of Correction, through its Parole and Community Services Unit, carries out the community oversight of paroled offenders. This Unit represents the consolidated community supervision and enforcement functions of the Department of Correction and the Board of Parole, which were combined in the fall of 2004 at the direction of the General Assembly.

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## MVP's, Cont'd

Jackson, Sharon	CO	CCI
Johnson, John	CO	CRCI
Johnson, Lavonne	Lt	CRCI
Johnston, Helen	Sec II	CRCI
Kelly, Jerri	CC	CRCI
Kieda, Rene	Deacon	McWCI
L'Etoile, Frank	Industry Supv	McWCI
Maldonado, Edward	Capt	McWCI
Manocchio, Laura	CS	HCC
Martucci, Karen	CC	McWCI
Matthews, James	GMO	CCI
Maynard, James	Capt	CCI
McCormick, Ned	Lt	McWCI
McGuire, Joseph	CTO	McWCI
McKissick, William	Reverend	McWCI
Moller, Robert	Capt	McWCI
Musco, Michael	CO	CCI
Nelson, Stacy	Office Asst	McWCI
O'Connor, Diane	Sec II	McWCI
Ouellet, Maribeth	CO	CCI
Pakalnis, Maria	CC	CCI
Pare, Gerald	Lt	McWCI
Patz, John	Capt	McWCI
Perry, Robin	Capt	CCI
Pinell, Charles	CFSS III	CRCI
Rodriguez, Glenda	CO	CCI
Rodriguez, Javier	CO	CCI
Rodriguez, Thomas	CO	CCI
Sato, Kirk	CFSS II	McWCI
Schmidt, William	Rec. Supv	CRCI
Shortridge, Sandra	Lt	McWCI
Smith, Jeffrey	CO	CCI
Strombowski, David	Reverend	McWCI
Toma, Brenda	CC	CCI
Trotman, Sidney	CO	CCI
Veneziano, Barbie	Sec II	CCI
Vitanza, Kelsey	CO	CCI
Wagner, Athena	CO	CCI
Watkins, Kelly	CC	CRCI
Wheeler, Steve	GMO	CRCI
Wilkins, Wilmer	CO	CCI
Williams, Charles	CO	CRCI
Wright, Gary	CS	McWCI

# DOC Cruise Night

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DOC Cruise Night sponsored by CRCI's Diversity and QWL committees was held at Rich's Drive-In in Somers and what a night it was. Correctional staff retirees, and friends, as well as Warden Whidden and her family attended on the picture perfect night. DJ Jim Wayne had the tunes cranking and Owner Carter Colby had his drive-in staff outfitted in "jailhouse" uniforms. Their attire for the night included handcuffs, ball and chains, and even (unofficial) head coverings. Even the menu reflected the tone of the evening with special dishes named with a correctional flair. But the stars of the evening were the cars and bikes that rolled in. From the sleek Japanese sport bikes to the touring Harley Davidson's, they all looked good. Katy Bartholomew's (Dental Assistant at Robinson CI) "white Barbie bike" 1992 H-D Sportster was a definite show-



stopper. On the car side of the parking lot, the spotless 1968 Ford Mustang driven by Ryan Ruops was looking good next to Tom Parvenski's 2004 Mach 1 'stang. Judy Wilkie's (nurse at Northern CI) 1976 Corvette was a fine example of GMC power and beauty. Many thanks to Rich's Drive-In, various area restaurants and businesses, the Correctional Education Association-CT,

Avon Products, Inc., and Foxwoods Resort and Casino for their generous donations.

In Honor of Diversity Awareness Month (October), members of the Executive Diversity Council submitted the following poem:

## CRAYONS

We could **all** learn from **crayons**.  
Some are **SHARP**, some are **dull**,  
Some have **weird** names and all  
are **DIFFERENT** colors. But.....  
they **all** have to live in the **SAME**  
**BOX!**

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## Calendar



**October 21** - Carl Robinson CI and the K-9 Unit will celebrate their 20th Anniversary at noon in CRCI's visiting room.



**October 23** - American Heart Association's 2005 Heart Walk. Log on to [www.heartwalk.kintera.org/hartford](http://www.heartwalk.kintera.org/hartford) for additional information.



**October 28**- MYI will celebrate the retirement of Verna Arndt, Eugene Aaron, Rich Brozowski, Steve Carbone,

James Foley, Jeff Gould, Dale Grande, Kevin Gray, Ron Linares, James Miller, Dave Parent, Manuel Reyes, Geoffrey Saunders, and Brenda Taylor at Gene's Cornerhouse Restaurant. Tickets are \$30.00. For info contact CO's Landrette & Liburdi, Yvonne Esposito, CFSS's Miclette & Waite or the Warden's office at 203.806.2502 or 203.806.2500.



**November 3 - December 30** - The CPA Prison Arts Program Alumnae Show will be held at the Charter Oak Cultural Center in Hartford.

Monday-Friday 1pm -5pm.



**November 11** - Bridgeport CC bus trip to New York City and Radio City Music Hall. This event is to

benefit CT- Special Olympics. Please contact Pam Neuendorf at 203.579.6985 for more information.